

## **NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

### **BUSINESS MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015**

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Graves, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley and Mr. Winn.

He thereupon called for the first item of business.

#### **A. COUNCIL INTERESTS**

1. Councilman Protogyrou:

- Relayed concerns about the cleaning of Oasts Creek in the area northbound and southbound of 8918 Granby Street. He stated that there is a lot of trash and debris in the creek and he asked the administration to find out if it is city-owned property or private property so that they can begin to clean it out.
- Provided the Manager with the following correspondence: a) from Mr. Charlie Goldman, 256 W. Ocean View Avenue, who would like to talk about sand issues; b) from Ms. Polizos, who lives in the Freemason area, would like to address concerns with the Pagoda area being overgrown with bamboo. He asked that someone from the administration contact her; c) from Ms. Cole reporting three lights are out on Government Avenue, two are located by Holy Trinity's parking lot; and d) citizen letter regarding Cox Gigablast and he asked someone from the administration to contact them.
- Asked the administration for an update on police vests that were discussed a year ago, noting that he does not know if they've been ordered.
- Asked about the city's position on the Chesapeake pursuit that ended in Norfolk with injuries.
- Would like to know more about the active shooting training with Norfolk Police Department.

2. Councilman Riddick:

- Asked for information regarding St. Thomas AME Zion Church, who received a tax bill. He noted that the church has a copy of the paperwork required to maintain their tax exempt status but they have met with resistance from the acting assessor.
- Expressed concern about municipal waste and oversight and asked if there is a gage or rule of thumb to estimate municipal waste for a city with a budget our size.
- In regards to COLA for retirees, he asked the administration for a presentation on what a two percent raise would do for retirees and what affect it would have on the bond rating. He stated that he would like to see retirees receive a two or three percent raise.
- He would like to know what they can do to approve the next budget by April 26, 2016.

3. Councilman Winn asked for a presentation from the Airport Authority on taxi service at the airport and the rationale behind their decision regarding Uber and would also like to understand what other cities are doing.

4. Councilwoman Johnson expressed concern regarding Norfolk Southern and their day and night train whistle blowing times, she asked the administration to work with the Brambleton community, understanding that there are federal steps that have to be taken.

5. Vice Mayor Williams-Graves commented as a follow-up to last week regarding driveways in Poplar Halls, stating that they need to make sure the ordinance or the statute conforms to what is already there. She noted that many residents in Poplar Halls have widened their driveways on their own property and they need to make sure the ordinance doesn't make it so residents are not in compliance. She suggested they tweak some of the language in the City Code so residents would be in compliance.

6. Councilman Smigiel commented in regards to the rising costs of Cox Cable and the lack of competition and asked when was the last time the city reached out to Verizon asking to sit down with them and talk about the franchise fees. He asked the administration to send a letter to Verizon asking to meet with them to talk about this so they would have a response for the citizens.

7. Councilman Protogyrou stated that there was a discussion at the Task Force meeting about short-term rentals and that they are a significant issue in Willoughby, Ocean View, East Beach and other parts of the city, Airbnb type of issues. He asked the administration to schedule a town hall meeting for January or February to hear from citizens on what they're doing and what they want or don't want.

Councilwoman Whibley suggested they have a presentation to City Council first before holding a town hall meeting.

8. Mayor Fraim:

- Asked the City Attorney for information about whether or not the city had the ability to regulate the sale of automatic or assault weapons.
- Asked for information on the Governor's executive order prohibiting the carrying of any sort of firearms into state buildings and by way of extension, he asked if there is some way to piggyback on something like that for local government buildings.



## **B. CLOSED SESSION**

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clause (s) 1 and 3 of subsection (A) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act**, as amended:

- (3) Discussion of the disposition of publicly owned real property in the area of Northampton Boulevard and Wesleyan Drive and in the downtown area.

Yes: Graves, Johnson, Protogyrou, Riddick, Smigiel, Whibley, Winn and Fraim.

No: None.

## **C. SAND MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Ron Williams, Deputy City Manager, reported as follows:

- Based on the work of the Ocean View and Sand Dune Advisory Committee, the administration is preparing a Sand Management Plan for review by Council in January.
- Goals include protection from storm surge, maximizing the beach amenity, stabilizing the sand to minimize sand moving out of the dune system.
- A costal management unit will be established in public works along with creation of a costal maintenance and review board.

## **D. COSTAL RESILIENCY STRATEGY UPDATE**

Ron Williams, Deputy City Manager, reported as follows:

- Goals include: 1) designing the coastal community of the future; 2) create economic opportunity by growing existing and new sectors; and 3) advance initiatives to connect communities, de-concentrate poverty and strengthen neighborhoods.
- Strategies under Goal 1 include; 1) develop a vision for a resilient future -Vision 2100; 2) assess, identify and implement innovation infrastructure for water management.
- Projects to address recurrent flooding include:

- 1) Willoughby/Ocean View watershed; 2) the Hague; 3) Pretty Lake; 4) Bay Streets infrastructure; 5) Broad Creek;
- 6) Downtown floodwall upgrade; 7) Hampton Boulevard; and
- 8) Ohio Creek.